Himalaya growing taller

1469. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Indian Express Bombay, dated 9th September, 91 under the caption 'Himalayas growing taller; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Uplift of mountains is a natural phenomenon which cannot be arrested/controlled. Scientific surveys are being conducted periodically by survey agencies to estimate the rise/growth rate.

Missing of vital part of augmented Satellite launch vehicle

1470. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any probe had been ordered into the circumstances in which the vital piece of the Augmented Statellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) which remained missing for several days in early November last is said to have been "deliberately misplaced";

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) While all vital pieces of Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) have been integrated, two small stainless steel parts meant for structural ground tests, which were not a part of the flight vehicle, were found missing immediately after Ayudha Pooja. They were subsequently recovered within the premises of the Fabrication Facility. A High-level Committee was set up to investigate the circumstances under which the parts were missing and to make comprehensive recommendations to avoid such incidents in future.

(b) Detailed investigations are underway. In the meantime action, as recommended by the Committee has already been initiated to clean up the premises, establish a separate store for keeping finished items and improve lighting conditions.

(c) All steps have been taken to protect the equipment and security has been further tightened.

12.00 NOON

The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification publishing the Naval ceremonial conditions of service and Miscellaneous (Amendment) Regulations, 1991

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Madam, I lay on the Table, under section 185 of the Navy Act, 1957, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Defence, Notification S·R.O. No. 194, dated the 28th September 1991, Publishing the Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous (Amendment) Regulations, 1991. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—814/9*1.]

Report and Accounts (1990-91) of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Singhbhum (Bihar) and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Madam, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act,